

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference<br>AZ.2231   | <b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) |  |
| International application No.<br>PCT/EP99/08040  | International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> )<br>22 October 1999 (22.10.99)   | Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> )<br>18 November 1998 (18.11.98) |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC<br>B01D 53/56 |   |  |
| Applicant<br>STEAG ENCOTEC GMBH  |   |  |

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.



This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 7 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

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|---|--|
| Date of submission of the demand<br>09 June 2000 (09.06.00) | Date of completion of this report<br>30 2001 (30.101.2001) |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP                     | Authorized officer   |
| Facsimile No.   | Telephone No.  |

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP99/08040

## I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.)*:

- ☐ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed,  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand,  
 pages 1-6, filed with the letter of 21 October 2000 (21.10.2000),  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☒ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed,  
 Nos. \_\_\_\_\_, as amended under Article 19,  
 Nos. \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand,  
 Nos. 1-6, filed with the letter of 21 October 2000 (21.10.2000),  
 Nos. \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed,  
 sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand,  
 sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_,  
 sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/EP 99/08040

## V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

### 1. Statement

|                               |        |     |     |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----|-----|
| Novelty (N)                   | Claims | 1-6 | YES |
|                               | Claims |     | NO  |
| Inventive step (IS)           | Claims | 1-6 | YES |
|                               | Claims |     | NO  |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | 1-6 | YES |
|                               | Claims |     | NO  |

### 2. Citations and explanations

Document WO-A-91/10864 is the closest prior art.

The prior art does not indicate a process for combusting a nitrogenous fuel in which a substoichiometric primary zone generated in the form of an inner cone of a flame is charged with nitrogen compounds or hydrocarbons as a nitrogen oxide reducing agent.

By using the aforementioned features it is possible to improve the distribution of the nitrogen reducing agent and to achieve an improved mixing with the reaction partners. Consequently, the device for combusting a nitrogenous fuel can be made larger without impairing its efficiency.